

to keep a record of the number of cairns replaced as well as repaired and the length of the lines cleared by these people in return for the privileges they enjoy. But it would be no exaggeration to say that this *modus operandi* saves the Department an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 at least annually, because it has to be remembered that in the Riverain Reserves, which are as a rule flooded for a period varying from three to four months, the work has to be renewed year after year.

#### IV.—*Surveys.*

32. Topographical sheets of the Indus Riverain Survey undertaken by a Survey party of the Government of India as soon as published are supplied to Divisional Forest Officers with a view to keeping a correct record of the changes brought about in the frontages of the riparian forest tracts by the Indus. Now that a Surveyor is attached to each Forest division, maps will be kept corrected up to date, and such a reliable record of changes will be of great value in proving the claims of the Department to new formations thrown up against forest boundaries when any disputes arise. But what is of more importance is that, with an accurate basis such as these maps will afford, it will be possible to prepare working schemes on sound silvicultural principles.

33. The permanent Surveyor attached to the Circle has performed a creditable amount of work during the year. Besides making a large number of copies of the Forest maps required for the use of Divisional and Range Forest Officers, he has surveyed about 33,000 acres of forest land, and at the close of the year was engaged in laying out coupes to be exploited in 1895-96 in the Jerruck Division.

### CHAPTER II.

#### MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

##### I.—*Regulation of Management.*

##### (a) *Working Plans and their Control.*

34. The forests continued to be worked according to the rough scheme introduced three years ago, under which one-twelfth part of each forest blocked nominally was set apart for the chief purpose of supplying firewood to the North-Western Railway and other consumers. The disadvantages of such a treatment are self-apparent and need not be discussed here, as I shall have occasion later on in this report to speak of them. Suffice it to say that proposals are being formulated with a view to the preparation of regular working plans according to the provisions of the Forest Department Code, 4th Edition.

35. A great deal has been said in previous reports regarding the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Sind Forests, one of which, and the chief one, is that the area of the most important forests is liable to serious fluctuations. But I am not prepared to recognize this difficulty as unsurmountable, and in my opinion it ought not to bar the way to a rational method of treatment being introduced. It goes without saying that it will entail additional labour in carrying out the provisions of the plan, but that cannot be considered a sufficient reason for delaying the application of sound silvicultural principles to the forests so situated.

36. The work of cutting up the forests into compartments has hardly made any progress, as during the year under report measurers possessing even an elementary knowledge of surveying could not be obtained owing to their being able to earn better wages on large public works which were under construction, such as the Jamrao Canal and the Kotri-Rohri Railway, than the Forest Department could offer.

37. The year's work as well as that remaining to be done is given in the following statement :—

Division.	AREA CUT UP INTO COMPARTMENTS UP TO 30TH JUNE 1894.		AREA CUT UP DURING 1894-95.		TOTAL AREA CUT UP INTO COMPARTMENTS.		AREA STILL REMAINING TO BE CUT UP.	REMARKS.
	Acres.	Length in miles of rides of 20 ft. wide.	Acres.	Length in miles of rides of 20 ft. wide.	Acres.	Length in miles of rides of 20 ft. wide.	Acres.	
Sukkur ...	* 202,880	1,273	...	...	202,880	1,273	89,301	* These figures include the areas which were cut up into compartment and which have been subsequently disforested.
Naushahro ...	* 85,964	536	3,840	24	89,804	560	68,173	
Hyderabad ...	98,607	511	...	...	98,607	511	27,228	
Jerruck ...	95,878	548	...	...	95,878	548	11,221	
Total ...	483,329	2,868	3,840	24	487,169	2,892	195,928	

(b) *Annual Plans of Operations.*

38. These were submitted for all divisions, but the Divisional Forest Officers were not able to carry the timber and firewood operations out in their entirety owing to the congested state of the labour market throughout the Province during the year under report.

*II.—Working of the year.*

(a) *Communications and buildings.*

39. The Province of Sind being as a rule fairly provided by Local Fund roads, there is seldom any necessity for the Forest Department to undertake any expensive road project. A good many of the most important forests having been cut up in squares of half-mile sides, the transport of produce from the forests by land or water is greatly facilitated by means of the dividing lines or rides. These, moreover, are made use of by the people at large during the dry season to carry grain and other produce of the country to wharves on the banks of the river.

40. The building works undertaken by the Forest Department consist in the erection of cheap offices for Range Forest Officers and Forest Guards' houses in the usual style of village huts.

41. Under the head of communications and buildings, Rs. 1,730 were spent during the year as detailed below :—

Division.				Amount.	REMARKS.
				Rs.	
Sukkur	...	...	...	479	
Naushahro	...	...	...	361	
Hyderabad	...	...	...	720	
Jerruck	...	...	...	170	
Total				1,730	

42. No works were carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department.